

**GREAT BATTLE IS HALTED;
RENEWAL OF ATTACK NEAR;
FRESH TROOPS COMING UP**

**British Regain Arette and
French Extend Gains Be-
low Montdidier.**

ENEMY ATTACKS FAIL

They Obtain a Few Local Successes, but Are Repulsed in Others.

AIRMEN BOMB GERMANS
Thirteen Tons of Projectiles
Dropped on Ham, Chauny
and Noyon.

LONDON, April 2.—This has been the quietest day on the battle front in France since the grand offensive began March 21, thirteen days ago. Field Marshal Haig reports to-night no change in the situation; the French night report says there was no infantry action to-day but rather violent artillery activity in the region north of Montdidier, especially between Demuin, on the Luce, Elvalet, and Hangeard-en-Santerre.

In the fighting yesterday and Monday night the British captured Ayetle, a small village eight miles southwest of Arras, which had been taken the other day by the Germans at an enormous cost of life. At dawn yesterday they repulsed a German attack near Fampoux, east of Arras, after rather a sharp fight, taking some prisoners. Last night the British drove the Germans out of

A split German attack south of Moreuil, between Morisel and Mailly Rameval, was repulsed except at one point, where the Germans obtained a footing in the French position. North of Roisel, on the southern side of the

Montaudou salient, a German effort was stopped by the French fire, and in the same vicinity, north of Plemont, the French made a successful local attack and took some prisoners. In this operation the French materially extended their lines.

Berlin Reports Conflicting.

Berlin reports that the British attack on Ayette was repulsed, but this may refer to the previous day's fighting.

also notes a revival of artillery activity in the Verdun sector and in the Central Vosges.

There is a great activity behind the lines. It is known that very heavy French reinforcements are coming up rapidly and when the great battle is resumed, as it is likely to be in a few days, the allied forces will be in much better shape, and the Germans naturally, in much worse state because of their huge losses than at the beginning of the offensive.

ended their line which ended at Moreauville, near the Lake thistle and not far from New Orleans, where some of the fiercest fighting of last week occurred. This extension enables the British to shorten their portion of the line.

Weather Delayed Transport.
German newspapers received at Amman

The Cologne *Gazette* says it learns from Berlin that the pause was a necessity. It asserts that the stormy weather of the last few days has greatly hampered the transport service of the Germans, and cites as a similar case the halt in the Italian campaign when the Tagliamento River was reached by

The Cologne *People's Gazette* asserted that the pause in the battle was due solely to orders of the German army command and not to any successes by the Entente Allies. The correspondent added that the roads must be repaired and munitions and vehicles sent up to the fighting forces, and continues:

"The bad weather, perhaps, may hamper our action, but the enemy soon will

A semi-official despatch from Berlin says the Compiegne station and the railway from Clermont to Amiens are under the German artillery fire, while Compiegne and Soissons have been bombarded by German aircraft.

**Recapture of Ayette the Only Im-
portant Change in Line.**

LONDON, April 2.—Following are the official statements on the situation on the battle front in France.

BRITISH (NIGHT).—The day again passed comparatively quietly on the whole battle front. There was local firing late last night and this morning.

The number of prisoners taken yesterday in successful operations at Ayette was 162, including six officers.

There is nothing further of special interest to report.

BRITISH (DAY).—At dawn yesterday, the British were engaged in operations in the neighborhood of Feuchy and Hebuterne. We captured two machine guns, many Germans were killed.

terday a determined attack made by a strong party of the enemy against our position in the neighborhood of Champonx was repulsed after sharp fighting. A number of German dead and a few prisoners were left in our hands.